

Campanula lasiocarpa
Alaska harebell
Campanulaceae (Harebell Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1959): A perennial plant that creeps below ground and has 1 to several lax stems up to 6 in. (15 cm) tall. The plant lacks hair except for the hypanthium, which is moderately to densely covered with long matted hairs and/or long, soft, fine trichomes, and the petioles or proximal margins of the leaves that are fringed with conspicuous hairs. The leaves are evidently to some-times obscurely serrate. The basal leaves are petiolate, with oblanceolate to elliptic or subrhombic blades that are $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 in. (6 to 25 mm) long. The few cauline leaves are more or less reduced. The flowers are solitary or rarely two. The calyx lobes are leaflike but narrow, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (5 to 18 mm) long, and commonly some or all of them have a few slender teeth. The blue corolla is $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (18 to 30 mm) long, much surpasses the style, and the broad lobes are much shorter than the tube. The anthers are $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ (3 to 5 mm) long. The capsule is subcylindric, not much enlarged upward, about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (1 cm) long, and opening near the summit.

Identification Tips: Of the four closely related *Campanula* species (*C. lasiocarpa*, *C. piperi*, *C. scabrella*, and *C. parryi*), only *C. lasiocarpa* and *C. scabrella* overlap in geographic location. These two species can be easily distinguished by the nature of their hypanthium, corolla, and leaves. The hypanthium of *C. lasiocarpa* is moderately to densely covered with long, loosely spreading hairs and/or long, soft, fine trichomes. Its corolla is mostly $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (18 to 30 mm) long with lobes that are much shorter than the tube, and leaves that are slightly to strongly toothed. The hypanthium of *C. scabrella* is hairless to slightly rough because of the presence of short, stiff hairs and is sometimes also covered with minute rough, stiff trichomes. Its corolla is mostly $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ in. (6 to 16 mm) long with lobes that are much shorter than the tube and its leaves are entire or nearly so.

Phenology: Flowers from July to August.

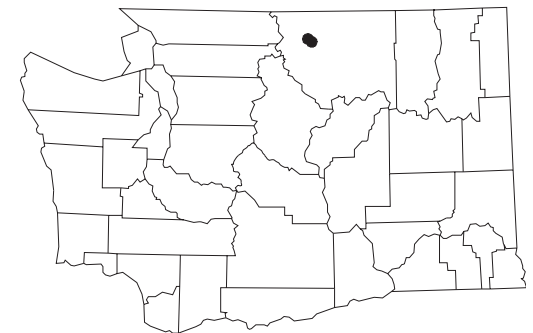
Range: This species is found in the Cascade Range of Snohomish County, Washington, the Selkirk Range of British Columbia, north to Alaska, throughout the Aleutian Islands to Kamchatka and south to Hokkaido, Japan.

Campanula lasiocarpa
Alaska harebell



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Known distribution of
Campanula lasiocarpa
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Campanula lasiocarpa

Alaska harebell

Washington Natural Heritage Photo



Campanula lasiocarpa

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Habitat: *Campanula lasiocarpa* prefers rock crevices in alpine zones, usually in unglaciated areas. In the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest it has been seen in dry, rocky microsites within cool, wet alpine areas. Populations in Washington have been found at an elevation of 2000 to 6840 ft (610 to 2085 m). Associated species include yellow mountain heather (*Phyllodoce glanduliflora*), three-forked artemisia (*Artemisia trifurcata*), and golden fleabane (*Erigeron aureus*).

Ecology: This is one of many circumboreal species that extend south as far as the higher elevations of Washington State.

State Status Comments: The species is peripheral in Washington. It is known from seven recent occurrences in King and Snohomish counties and one historical site. All extant populations are quite small.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed. Rocky areas within alpine habitats in King and Snohomish counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Known populations should be revisited and updated information should be collected.

Threats and Management Concerns: Existing possible threats include grazing and trampling from goats and trampling from climbers.

References:

- Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 510 pp.
- NatureServe. 2003. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 1.8. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 19, 2003).
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